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Message Text

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17
ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04

H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 OMB-01 IO-10

MMO-01 DHA-02 AID-05 /088 W
---------- 053928
O 101230Z SEP 75
FM AMEMBASSY PORT LOUIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5407
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR MARR IN US MPS
SUBJECT: WASHINGTON POST INQUIRY ABOUT FORMER INHABITANTS OF
DIEGO GARCIA

1. LATE LAST WEEK DAVID OTTOWAY, WASHINGTON POST REGIONAL CORRESPONDENT BASED IN ADDIS ABABA, CALLED AT EMBASSY OSTENSIBLY TO INQUIRE ABOUT GENERAL CONDITIONS IN MAURITIUS TO WHICH HE ADDED QUESTIONS ABOUT STATUS OF FORMER INHABITANTS OF DIEGO GARCIA WHO WERE BROUGHT TO MAURITIUS SOME YEARS AGO AND GENERAL BACKGROUND OF PROBLEM. HE SAID HE HAD BEEN REQUESTED BY HIS EDITORS IN WASHINGTON TO MAKE THESE INQUIRIES HERE. HE ALSO ASKED SPECIFICALLY WHETHER EMBASSY WAS AWARE OF PETITIONS BY THOSE EVACUEES (LOCALLY CALLED ILOIS) AND WHETHER US WAS DIRECTLY INVOLVED IN THEIR REMOVAL FROM DIEGO GARCIA AND THEIR RESETTLEMENT IN MAURITIUS.

2. WE REPLIED THAT WE WERE AWARE OF ONE OR TWO PETITIONS IN THE LAST YEAR WHICH WERE DIRECTED TO THE UK AND MAURITIAN GOVERNMENTS, THAT WE CONSIDERED THIS TO BE WITHIN THE COMPETENCE OF THOSE TWO GOVERNMENTS AND THAT TO OUR KNOWLEDGE THE US WAS
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NOT DIRECTLY INVOLVED IN TRANSFER OF ILOIS TO MAURITIUS,

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WHICH WAS ARRANGED DIRECTLY BETWEEN UKG AND GOM. AT OTTOWAY'S REQUEST, WE PROVIDED HIM WITH COPIES OF THE TWO US-UK PUBLIC AGREEMENTS ON DIEGO GARCIA (JOINT USE UMBRELLA AGREEMENT AND NAVAL COMMUNICATIONS FACILITY AGREEMENT OF 1966).

3. WE ASSUME OTTOWAY MAY HAVE INTERVIEWED SOME OF ILOIS HERE BUT HAVE NO INFORMATION AS TO NATURE OF SUCH INTERVIEWS.

4. FOREGOING REPLIES WERE COORDINATED WITH ACTING BRITISH HIGH COMMISSIONER, WHOSE OFFICE WAS ALSO APPROACHED BY OTTOWAY WHO WAS GIVEN PARALLEL RESPONSES. I PROMPTLY INFORMED PRIME MINISTER RAMGOOLAM OF OTTOWAY'S INQUIRIES AND OUR REPLIES, WHICH HE ACCEPTED WITHOUT DEMUR.

5. OTTOWAY'S STORY FRONT-PAGED IN LOCAL DAILY MAURICIAN TODAY, WHICH ADDED EDITORIAL COMMENT THAT "DESPITE A COMPENSATION PAID BY THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT TO THE MAURITIAN GOVERNMENT NOT A SINGLE SOU HAS BEEN GIVEN TO THEM (ILOIS) TO DATE, I.E., THREE YEARS SINCE THEY WERE EXPELLED" AND CRITICIZED RAMGOOLAM GOVERNMENT FOR INDIFFERENCE TO FATE OF ILOIS.

6. ACTING BRITISH HIGH COMMISSIONER INFORMED US TODAY THAT SOME YEARS AGO UKG HAD PROVIDED 640,000 POUNDS TO GOM FOR RESETTLE-MENT OF ILOIS BUT AS FAR AS ACTING HIGH COMMISSIONER KNEW ONLY 1,000 POUNDS OF THAT AMOUNT HAS ACTUALLY BEEN DISBURSED BY GOM TO THEM.
MANHARD

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
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Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT, DIEGO GARCIA, MILITARY BASE AGREEMENTS
Control Number: n/a
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Draft Date: 10 SEP 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ShawDG
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
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Executive Order: N/A
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Film Number: D750314-0371
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Handling Restrictions: n/a
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ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750966/aaaacgdz.tel
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Review Authority: ShawDG
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Review Media Identifier:
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TAGS: PFOR, MARR, SREF, IN, US, UK, (OTTOWAY, DAVID)
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